

Laboratory of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

December 12, 1967

Dr. Eugene Contrey, Chief
Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Dear Dr. Contrey:

I am writing to follow up on our discussions of the Report on Chemical Mutagens as a Possible Health Hazard prepared some time ago by the Genetics Study Section.

As you will recall, we met with Dr. John Shannon, Dr. Katherine Allion and Mr. Lawrence Huxey in Dr. Shannon's office. At that time Dr. Shannon's comments on our report were discussed.

It was agreed that the recommendations require some action. Accordingly, I intend to discuss them further to determine their practicability and the possibility of their implementations. The Study Section is strongly desirous that such action be taken.

We recognize, as Dr. Shannon pointed out, that the report is nonspecific in some ways. The implementation would call for more detailed considerations, which we did not think were appropriate in a first report.

The Study Section is not, we believe, the proper group to consider the questions in detail. There are two main reasons. One is that its primary job is to review research applications and related activities in connection with research grants. The members are all busy and I hesitate to ask for the large additional time commitment that a proper report would necessitate. The second, and more important, reason is that the subject is now at a stage where specific technical competence is needed and the Genetics Study Section does not have many people in this specialty.

Therefore we recommend that you get the technical advice mainly or entirely from others. However, we wish to indicate our willingness to help, for example, we could suggest specific people, competent and interested in the area.

I hope you will follow up to see that some action occurs. We think the question is too important to be set aside.

Sincerely,

James F. Crow

cc: Dr. Allion